

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 IO-10 EB-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03 COME-00 /085 W

----- 087065

R 080933Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3333

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: AZORES: PRESS TREATMENT

REF: A. LISBON 3392; B. LISBON 3612; C. PONTA DELGADA 223

(NOTAL); D. PONTA DELGADA 226 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FOR MOST PART, PRESS CONTINUES TO DISCUSS AZORES QUESTION IN TERMS OF ISLANDS' CHRONIC ECONOMIC UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND THEIR NEGLECT BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. IN SPECIAL SERIES, ONE LISBON PAPER IS EMPHASIZING THEME THAT AZOREAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENT STEMS FROM LOCAL BOURGEOISIE'S FEAR OF LOSING PRIVILEGES. SPECIAL ARTICLE IN WEEKLY EXPRESSO EMPHASIZED ISLANDS' AMERICAN CONNECTION. END SUMMARY

1. ONE MONTH AFTER PONTA DELGADA SEPARATIST DEMON-  
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STRATION SUCCEEDED MOMENTARILY IN CAPTURING LISBON'S

ATTENTION, PUBLIC ANALYSIS OF CAUSES FOR SEPARATIST SENTIMENT HAS FOCUSED ON THEMES OF CHRONIC ECONOMIC UNDER-DEVELOPMENT AND NEGLECT BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (REF A).

2. RECENT NEWS STORIES HAVE DEALT WITH GOP'S ATTEMPTS TO CORRECT ECONOMIC COMPLAINTS WHICH PONTA DELGADA DEMONSTRATION HIGHLIGHTED (REFS B AND C). PRESS COVERAGE OF PRISONER RELEASES, INCLUDING RELEASE OF PONTA DELGADA CONSULATE EMPLOYEE VICTOR CRUZ, HAS BEEN EITHER VERY LOW KEY OR NON-EXISTENT (REF D).

3. TWO AFTERNOON LISBON PAPERS HAVE RUN SERIES OF ANALYTICAL ARTICLES ON AZORES. INDEPENDENT-LEFTIST AFTERNOON "CAPITAL" CONCENTRATED ON RURAL UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND STAGNATION. COMMUNIST-DOMINATED AFTERNOON "DIARIO DE LISBOA" EMPHASIZED THAT SEPARATIST SENTIMENT STEMS FROM AZOREAN BOURGEOISIE'S FEAR OF LOSING ITS PRIVILEGES. PAPER PUBLISHED NAMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF SEPARATIST MOVEMENT'S ALLEGED LEADERS TO PROVE ITS POINT. NAME HEADING LIST OF OBVIOUSLY MIDDLE-CLASS TYPES WAS VICTOR CRUZ, IDENTIFIED AS "HIGH RANKING FUNCTIONARY" OF AMERICAN COUNCIL (SIC) IN SAO MIGUEL. ARTICLE DID NOT OTHERWISE REFER TO CRUZ.

4. MOST STRIKING SINGLE ARTICLE THUS FAR APPEARED IN LIBERAL WEEKLY "EXPRESSO." LONG ARTICLE WAS SET OFF BY SYMBOLIC U.S. FLAG WITH STRIPES DISSOLVING INTO TENTACLES WRAPPING AROUND AZORES AND MADEIRA. ARTICLE HEADED: "D. SEBASTIAO RETURNS TO THE DISENCHANTED ISLANDS." (D. SEBASTIAO WAS YOUNG PORTUGUESE HERO-KING WHOSE DEATH IN NORTH AFRICA PRECEDED PORTUGUESE LOSS OF INDEPENDENCE TO SPAIN IN 1580; HE SYMBOLIZES ROMANTIC YEARNING FOR SAVIOUR TO APPEAR WHO CAN SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS.)

5. EXPRESSO ARTICLE REFERRED EXTENSIVELY TO AZORES' AMERICAN CONNECTION. PRINCIPAL COMMENTS ALONG THIS LINE WERE:

A. FOR AZOREANS, WHAT HAPPENS IN PORTUGAL IS IMPORTANT, BUT ABSTRACT, AS IF HAPPENING ON ANOTHER PLANET; ON OTHER HAND, SOME ONE MILLION EMIGRANTS IN U.S. AND CANADA FURNISH TIES OF KINSHIP AND ECONOMIC INTEREST WHICH ARE REAL AND PROFOUND.

B. PORTUGUESE LEFT IS MISSING POINT COMPLETELY WHEN IT SPEAKS OF "REACTION" IN ISLANDS; TO DO SO IS TO BECOME PRISONER OF IDEOLOGICAL MYTHS, WITH NO ABILITY TO COMPREHEND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AZORES' SPECIFIC SITUATION.

C. U.S. BASE AT LAJES IS BOTH SYMBOL AND CONTAGION; BENEFITS (BOTH IN GOODS AND WAGES) HAVE FLOWED FROM IT FOR MORE THAN A GENERATION; ITS PRESENCE SYMBOLIZES EXAGGERATED VISION MOST AZOREANS HAVE OF U.S. WAY OF LIFE.

D. "ANTI-AMERICANISM" IS MANIFESTLY UNPOPULAR SENTIMENT TO EXPRESS IN AZORES AND IS LIABLE TO PROVOKE HOSTILITY AND EVEN PHYSICAL ATTACK; THOSE TAKING OPENLY ANTI-AMERICAN

POSITIONS PREJUDICE VIEWPOINTS THEY TRY TO EXPRESS.

E. WHILE U.S. PRESENCE ALSO IS IRRITATING, THIS  
IRRITATION IS TEMPERED BY ECONOMIC REALITY: AS BETWEEN BEING  
EXPLOITED BY PORTUGUESE OR BY AMERICANS, "THE AMERICANS HAVE  
MONEY, THE PORTUGUESE ARE BROKE."  
OKUN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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